We wish to thank Dr. R. C. Gray, Dr. J. M. Dunbar, Dr. W. Shepherd, Sister P. H. Symmons, Mr. J. Rodgers and the staff of the Microbiology Laboratories of the Royal Victoria Hospital and the Belfast City Hospital for their help and encouragement.

REFERENCES

DEXTER, F. (1971). *J. Hyg., Camb.*, **69**, 179.
GERKEN, A., CAVANAGH, S., WINNER, H. I. (1972). *Lancet*, **1**, 1214.
GOVAN, J. R. W., GILLIES, R. R. (1969). *J. Med. Microbiol.*, **2**, 17.
MAKELA, P., OJAJARVI, J., SALMINEN, E. (1972). *Lancet*, **1**, 1216.
PHILLIPS, I., EYKYN, S., CURTIS, M. A., SNELL, J. J. S. (1971). *Lancet*, **1**, 375.

BOOK REVIEW

AN INTRODUCTION TO MEDICAL GENETICS by J. A. Fraser Roberts. Sixth Edition. (Pp. xvi+310, figures 132, £3.50). London: Oxford University Press, 1973.

DR. FRASER ROBERTS' book needs no introduction to medical geneticists or interested clinicians. Since the first edition appeared over thirty years ago, *An Introduction to Medical Genetics* has remained by far the best first textbook on its subject and the sixth edition suggests that it still has no peer. It is hard to find the backbone of medical genetics more carefully and less pretentiously presented. As there are many books devoted to the molecular bases of heredity, molecular genetics is dealt with in the barest detail. The chapters on dominant, recessive, X-linked and intermediate inheritance are models of clarity and the chapter on linkage is an admirable introduction to this complex subject. The role of somatic cell genetics in establishing linkage in man is also briefly mentioned. Clinical aspects of chromosome abnormalities has been brought up-to-date and includes references to such new staining techniques as quinacrine mustard fluorescence and Giesma staining, which allow the precise identification of individual chromosomes. Inherited disorders and congenital malformations with a multifactorial basis will undoubtedly present one of the major challenges in human genetics in the next few decades. The section on multifactorial inheritance has been considerably expanded. The discussion on genetic counselling reflects the humane wisdom of a veteran practitioner in this increasingly important activity of medical geneticists. The place of transabdominal amniocentesis in the detection of genetic defects in the fetus *in utero* and in genetic counselling is also reviewed.

The book is admirably illustrated with photographs of a high quality. Unfortunately, the cost of the paper back production has risen from £1.75 to £3.50.

N.C.N.